

frequency of a peculiar character. The locality was a wooded slope in the area bounded by Midland, Yonkers, Jerome, and McLean Avenues. I have sent this note to TORREYA in the hope that some of the local botanists may care to make counts of this species in other surrounding *Sanguinaria* localities and investigate the nature of this peculiar society.

I am reminded, in this connection, of a similar aberrant society of *Trillium grandiflorum* Salisb. near Williamsville, Erie Co., N. Y. This grove contains an unusually large number of cases of acaulescence, petiolate leaves, and sepalody of the petals. These variations are all known in *Trillium grandiflorum*, but they are really common in this particular society.

BARTELSVILLE, OKLAHOMA

REVIEWS

Thaxter's Contribution toward a Monograph of the Laboulbeniaceae. Part II*

Part II of Professor Thaxter's monograph of the Laboulbeniaceae is a handsome work of 251 quarto pages and 44 plates and is throughout, as it is almost superfluous to remark, of the same high quality that characterized the first part of the monograph, published about twelve years ago. The growth of our knowledge of these small fungous parasites on insects and the manner in which Professor Thaxter has made this special field peculiarly his own is well illustrated by the fact that when he began his studies of the Laboulbeniaceae eighteen or twenty years ago the group in the world as a whole was credited with six described genera (four of them valid) represented by fifteen described species, of which only one was from North America. The present contribution brings the number of described species and varieties up to about five hundred, distributed in more than fifty genera, and the author intimates that during the progress of the work more than one hundred additional new species have accumulated, which must await elaboration at some future time. And this expansion is due in very slight measure to any change

*Thaxter, R. Contribution toward a Monograph of the Laboulbeniaceae. Part II. Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences 13: 219-469. pl. 28-71. Je 1908.

in point of view as to the taxonomic arrangement of previously known forms ; practically all of the forms described as new have been hitherto absolutely unknown. In the first part of the monograph, printed nearly twelve years ago, the number of known species is given as 158, of which 130 were North American and 19 were European. No summary is given in the present part, but while North America is still apparently in the lead in the number of recognized species, its overwhelming preponderance has doubtless been relatively reduced by an increased knowledge of the Laboulbeniales of the other parts of the world. Professor Thaxter has twice visited Europe for the purpose of examining collections of insects in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Berlin, and Paris, and many exotic species of Laboulbeniales thus detected are here described and figured. His own extensive collections of these entomophilous fungi in South America in 1905-6 still remain to be described.

Professor Thaxter devotes a page to refuting Cavares's contention that the Laboulbeniales are essentially saprophytes rather than parasites, his conclusion being that although "the growth of these plants is not associated with any appreciable injury to the host, it is nevertheless a true parasitism of a typically obligate type." As to the details of the phylogeny of the group, the author of the monograph modestly and refreshingly "confesses his complete agnosticism in these matters, an agnosticism which embraces the question of the origin of the Ascomycetes as a whole, and the determination of the course of evolution in the entire fungus series." His conclusion as to the taxonomic position of the group is summed up as follows : "As to the Laboulbeniales, it may be said with safety that they resemble the Florideae in some respects more closely than they do any other plants, while at the same time they are more surely Ascomycetes than many forms included in this group, and the writer sees no sufficient reason why they should not be placed in the Pyrenomycetes, as a group coördinate with the Perisporiales, Hypocreales, etc."

A slight bibliographical defect in Professor Thaxter's monograph is the fact that the contribution which now, apparently, we

are to consider "Part I", itself consists of a "Part I" and a "Part II", so that some such citation "Thaxter, Monog. Laboulbeniaceae, Part II, pp. 251-396" might possibly be interpreted as referring to the contribution of twelve years ago as well as to that of the present year. But, of course, no one ought to quote the work in any such fashion. If the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences are cited, as they should be, any such trifling chance of ambiguity will be obviated.

That such a notable extension of human knowledge as is evidenced in Professor Thaxter's monograph has been the work of an American scholar, must always remain a source of pride to American botanists. In connection with a contribution of this kind, it occurs to the reviewer to remark that the fungi parasitic on marine algae are still practically unknown and that though they are probably much less numerous than those parasitic on insects, they offer a field that is well worthy of the attention of mycologists.

MARSHALL A. HOWE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

NOVEMBER 25, 1908

The meeting was called to order at the Museum Building of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:40 P. M., with Dr. M. A. Howe in the chair. There were 14 persons present. The minutes of the meeting of November 10 were read and approved.

The resignation of Dr. Valery Havard, dated November 8, 1908, was read. A motion was made and carried that the resignation of Dr. Havard be accepted and that his name be transferred to the list of corresponding members.

There was no announced scientific program for this meeting, but the following communications were made :

Dr. Britton showed fruits of the rare and local tree, *Prioria copaifera* Griseb., which he collected in company with Mr. William Harris, at Bachelor's Hall, Jamaica, near where it was originally discovered sixty years ago by Nathaniel Wilson who